

United States Post Office
201 East Patrick Street
Frederick
Frederick County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-900

HABS
MD,
11 FRED,
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

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Location: 201 East Patrick Street (Northeast corner of East Patrick and North Carroll Streets)
Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland

Present Owner: United States Postal Service
(Eastern Region office; P.O.Box 8601
Philadelphia, PA 19197-0001
J.F.Kenyon, General Manager, Real Estate)

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Significant as an example of federal post office construction during the first quarter of the twentieth century. A good if somewhat austere example of Neo-Classical Revival public building.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Dates of erection: Original section, 1917; rear addition, 1938.
2. Architect: Original section, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, Treasury Department; Addition, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Treasury Dept.
3. Original and Subsequent owners: Public Buildings Branch, Treasury Department, United States Government; U.S. Postal Service
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: unknown
5. Original plan and construction: Rectangular two story structure, 64'3" x 90'0" (see attached plan); masonry bearing walls, reinforced concrete structural system.
6. Alterations and additions: Rear addition, rectangular in plan, 30' x 75' for loading and sorting. One story, masonry bearing walls, reinforced concrete structural system.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:
None

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A somewhat austere example of the Neo-Classical Revival style that found favor with architects employed by the Federal government during this (1917) period. Rectangular in plan and in elevation, the front facade consists of an excellent arcade composed of eight engaged Greek Doric fluted columns, with flat end pilasters, supporting a massive frieze (triglyph and metopes, guttae and mutules) and molded projecting cornice (with lion head bosses above each triglyph) and a limestone faced parapet wall. End elevations are five bays in width with 12/12 d.h.* wood sash, limestone spandrels and coursed limestone aprons above a limestone watertable. The projecting cornice, minus the frieze, returns at the end walls, and is repeated in the rear addition, a one story rectangular construction that duplicates all details and materials used in the original structure.

2. Condition of fabric: Exterior is in generally good condition, with minor maintenance required at the windows, and minor repointing needed. Interior has suffered from minor water damage and the removal of much of the original counters, post office boxes, etc, and hardware.

B. Description of Exterior:

Over-all dimensions: Original section, 64'3" x 90'0"; rear addition, 30' x 75'

2. Foundations: brick, sheathed with coursed limestone as a watertable

3. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick, sheathed with wire cut brick laid in Flemish bond. Limestone watertable, frieze, cornice, parapet wall at front, parapet coping, columns and pilasters. Granite stairs and platform. Brick is light buff in color.

4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls, reinforced concrete structural system.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: Front entrance reached by three steps to a six step landing, all granite. Rear entrance to cellar is provided by a ten riser enclosed stair at the northwest corner of the rear addition. This has concrete risers (top is granite), limestone walls, wrought iron rail.

6. Chimneys: Hidden from view behind parapet wall-vents boiler.

*d.h. = double hung

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance is original double door (wood with single large glass panel in each leaf) with brass butts, kickplate and handles. Set below an excellent cornice and frieze (see photo) which consists of a stepped fascia with rondels, a bed mold of bead and reel below enriched talons and a classic crown. The cornice is surmounted by a row of stylized acanthus and palm leaves, cast in white metal. Rear doors at loading dock are modern three double service doors and one nine-light entrance door. Cellar door at rear is metal clad security door.
- b. Windows and shutters: Front facade, eight bays of 4/4 transoms, 12/12 double hung wood sash. Molded wood transom bars and casings, limestone sills. These full height windows are screened with Union Jack open white metal grilles. Windows in end walls are 12/12 d.n. wood sash and casings, limestone spandrels and aprons. Windows in later rear wall (4) are 8/8 d.h. wood sash and casings, limestone sills. No shutters.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Slopes from south to north, tar and gravel.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Enclosed by parapet wall (buff brick and limestone coping, with classic cornice at eaves line-cyma recta crown mold over cavetto, with flat frieze. No eaves expressed as such.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None
9. Other features: Flanking light standards at entrance porch.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Original section, rectangular in plan. First Floor has almost full width lobby across the south part, with a stair to the mezzanine in the east end, parcel post office at the west. Behind this lobby is the original sorting room, with two small offices along the east wall, a vault and office at the west, with stairs to the mezzanine in the northwest corner. Second floor is a crescent shaped mezzanine, with office and a conference room at the east section, postal workers lockers and rest room at the west section. The lobby extends two full stories in height. There is no hall connecting the two mezzanine areas, but there is an observation platform.

- C. 1. (Cont.) Floor Plans: Rear addition is a continuation of the sorting room, one story in height, with an enclose mailing vestibule at the north east corner and a loading dock along the full width of the north wall.

2. Stairways: Main stair to Postmaster's Office and conference room at east mezzanine has marble risers, treads and skirt to a marble landing, changing to metal risers, marble treads and skirts. Cast paneled metal newels, wood rail, square metal balusters.

Stair in northwest corner to west mezzanine is all metal, diamond plate treads, wood hand rail at wall. There is also a metal circular stair to the cellar in the northeast corner of the original sorting room and concrete with steel nosing stairs to the cellar in the southeast part of the lobby.

3. Flooring: Cellar, concrete; First Floor, lobby, terrazzo with inlaid marble margins; work spaces, wood; rear addition, wood; Second floor mezzanine, wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish; Cellar, painted brick; First Floor, lobby, marble base and high wainscot, with plaster upper walls. Upper sections of lobby walls are raised panel in design, with a molded plaster cornice over a stepped frieze. Ceiling is plaster, with recessed margin creating one large panel. North wall of lobby had post office boxes (cast metal) and service windows, much of which has been removed, and pivoting transom lights, all in oak frames. Work rooms and offices, wood base molds, plaster on brick walls, plaster on architectural tile columns and non-bearing walls, no cornice or chair rail, but wood picture molds in offices. Rear addition has tall tongue and groove wainscot. All ceilings plaster. Mezzanine walls have wood base, chair rail and picture mold, plaster ceilings and walls. Toilets at east and west mezzanines have marble wainscot and stall dividers, plaster upper walls and ceilings.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance door in south wall is flush panel with large single light in each of two leaves. cased with molded oak trim. Trabeated entrances to rear area and stair to east mezzanine at right end of lobby has marble pilasters and frieze (no doors). Parcel post window at west end of lobby has aluminum roll door. Doors in the rear of the first floor and in the mezzanines are paneled oak with distressed glass upper panels, all with molded oak architrave trim.

C. 5. (Cont.)

b. Windows: First Floor, lobby, 4/4 transoms (fixed) over 12/12 wood d.h. sash in south wall, with molded oak architraves, marble sills. Vertical casements over service windows in north wall of lobby, oak with flat oak casings, pivoted top and bottom, arranged in three window bays. Rear work rooms and first floor offices, wood 12/12 d.h. sash with simple oak casings set in plaster jambs, wood sills. Mezzanine, both east and west, has five 3/3 wood d.h. sash at interior walls overlooking the roof.

6. Decorative features and trim: Lobby has remains of what were three bays of cast white metal post office boxes, part of one bay remaining in situ. Service windows retain metal grilles. Lobby has three good hanging light fixtures (see photo).

7. Hardware: Cast butts, bronze escutcheons at interior doors, bronze latches and knobs.

8. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Forced steam, cast iron radiators in all areas. Original boiler (Fitzgibbons Boiler Co., New York, Owego, N.Y.) was fired with coal, converted to oil. No air conditioning. Natural ventilation.

b. Lighting: Three good hanging incandescent fixtures in lobby, remainder of building lit by fluorescent lights.

c. Modern fixtures in all (4) toilet areas, slop sinks at both floors

9. Notable original furniture: All original furniture removed when building vacated by Post Office.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Occupies the entire corner lot, with front facade facing south. Building extends to sidewalk line at south and west walls. North area paved in asphalt as service area. East area paved in asphalt for parking. Site is in deteriorating condition. No landscape design or outbuildings

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original architectural drawings: See attached list of architectural drawings (originals) available at the Eastern Region Office of the U.S. Postal Service.
- B. Bibliography
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records of construction, original and for the 1938 rear addition. On file with the U.S. Postal Service.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources: Included in the Frederick National Register Historic District. Structure determined to be contributing to the district. One file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis.
- C. Likely sources not yet investigated: none
- D. Supplemental Material: List of drawings for the original construction and the 1938 rear addition, available at the U.S. Postal Service, Eastern Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA.

Drawing No. 1, July 28, 1916 - APPROACH PLAN

Drawing No. 2, July 28, 1916 - BASEMENT PLAN

Drawing No. 4, July 28, 1916 - MEZZANINE AND LOW ROOF PLAN

Drawing No. 100, July 28, 1916 - EAST PATRICK STREET ELEVATION

Drawing No. 101, July 28, 1916 - SIDE ELEVATION (EAST)

Drawing No. 102, July 28, 1916 - CARROLL STREET ELEVATION

Drawing No. 103, July 28, 1916 - REAR ELEVATION (NORTH)

Drawing No. 1A, July 20, 1917 - NEW LOCATION OF BUILDING ON LOT

Drawing No. 1-1, June 17, 1938 - APPROACH PLAN - EXTENSION AND REMODELING

Drawing No. 1-2, June 17, 1938 - GROUND FLOOR PLAN - EXTENSION AND
REMODELING

Drawing No. 1-100, June 17, 1938 - REAR ELEVATION (NORTH), SIDE
ELEVATION (EAST) AND SIDE ELEVATION (WEST) - EXTENSION AND
REMODELING

OLD FREDERICK CITY POST OFFICE
First Floor Plan (1938)

Not to scale

North

